

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Director for Reports and Estimates

DATE: 13 December 1949

FROM : Chief, Near East/Africa Division

SUBJECT: Intelligence Production

D/NE

REFERENCE: (a) EPB Notice No. 2-49, 9 December 1949
(b) Memorandum from AD/ORE to DCI (with attachments), 2 December 1949

1. This memorandum is submitted in response to reference document (a) although on 8 December D/NE drew up (and subsequently delivered) a memorandum to the AD/ORE containing pertinent comments on the series of papers making up reference (b) above.

2. D/NE feels that the "concept" (Tab A of reference document (b)) and the development of this "concept" into a specific production program (Tab B) serve a very useful purpose, but only as interim measures while the EPB or a subcommittee thereof is working on a production plan which will be applicable not merely to one producing component but throughout ORE.

3. The trouble, as we see it, arises from the fact that although the Far East documents represent specific project listing rather than over-all planning, high-level recipients of the documents may mistakenly conclude that the plan is intended as a prototype for all ORE planning. To obviate this danger, the documents should be accompanied by a clear statement indicating that the plan is designed to indicate not an intelligence concept or formula but merely the topics that D/NE expects to be concerned with so long as US "security objectives and interests in the Far East are largely influenced by a world-wide struggle for power with the USSR." If this idea is made clear, the documents will accomplish the purpose of informing and alerting the IAC agencies without committing all of ORE to this type of specific planning.

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4. We believe that the DCI and/or the IAC agencies should also be informed that ORE is attempting to draw up an over-all "concept of intelligence production" to be developed into a framework plan which each producing component would fill in according to the nature of the problems in its particular area. The "concept" would represent the EPB's selection of the types or categories of finished intelligence which ORE should produce. This selection would be made only after careful study, including a comprehensive analysis of past ORE production, good and bad. Once legitimate categories were established,

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2.

each producing component could draw up its own program or schedule. (Incidentally, the substance of the Far East plan would readily fit into such a framework.)

5. Thus D/NE believes that a general formula of production can and should be devised for use throughout ORE. Such a formula as that we envisage assures a desirable degree of uniformity without unduly circumscribing the divisions in their choice of specific topics. The alternatives to this method of handling the problem would seem to be the unrealistic course of requiring each division to draw up a long list of topics which might or might not remain pertinent throughout the years, or to leave each division to cope with the difficult problem of planning production as best it could.



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